




**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Glenn English
Chief Executive Officer

September 20, 2005

The Honorable Richard Pombo
Chairman
House Committee on Resources
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

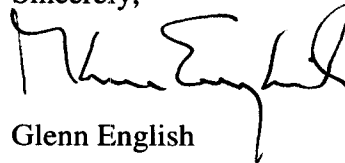
Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the nation's 37 million member-owners of America's electric cooperatives, I am writing to endorse the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (H.R. 3824). NRECA supports your common-sense approach towards updating and improving the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Although we agree with the spirit of the ESA to protect threatened and endangered species, many rural electric cooperatives have borne a heavy burden in complying with its rigid application. In a hearing before the Resources Committee earlier this year three cooperative leaders testified about how the ESA has hampered their efforts to deliver reliable electricity service to their customers. As Mike Brown of Dixie Escalante stated, *"The heavy burden of complying with this 30 year old law has not only complicated the delivery of the electricity to rural areas, but has also increased the annual energy bills for the 10,000 member/customers of our very rural electric coop."*

NRECA looks forward to working with you and other members of the Resources Committee to ensure that meaningful legislation updating and improving the ESA is passed during the 109th Congress. We believe the time is now for such legislation to be passed, and we appreciate the leadership role you have taken on this issue during your tenure in Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn English".

Glenn English